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Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathies

INCREASED INCIDENCE OF CANCER AMONG HEART FAILURE PATIENTS: A LONG-TERM FOLLOW-UP STUDY

Poster Contributions

Hall C

Monday, March 31, 2014, 9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Session Title: Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathies: Prognostic Factors and Determinants of Outcomes in Heart Failure Patients

Abstract Category: 12. Heart Failure and Cardiomyopathies: Clinical

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Background: With improvements in management of chronic heart failure (CHF) more patients survive for extended periods, thus increasing the importance of detection and management of non-cardiac diseases. The aim of this study was to assess the incidence of a cancer diagnosis in a large Danish cohort with CHF using nationwide Danish administrative Registries.

Methods: A total of 9309 outpatients with verified systolic heart failure without prior diagnosis of cancer referred to 18 Danish heart failure clinics from January 2002 to December 2011 (25.6 % female, mean age 68, LVEF <30, 70% in NYHA II-III) were included. A new diagnosis of cancer was obtained from the Danish National Patient Registry and incidence rates compared to the general Danish population. Risk of cancer was analyzed in Cox regression analysis adjusted for gender and age and incidence rates per 10,000 patient years were calculated.

Results: During follow-up 840 new cases of cancer were identified in the CHF cohort, corresponding to an incidence rate of 193.6. (95% CI 180.6-206.5) per 10,000 patient years. The most common malignant diagnoses were lung, skin, prostate and colon cancer. The incidence rates in the background population were 34.8 (34.6-35.0), 165.2 (164.1-166.3) and 171.9 (170.8-173) for those aged <60 years, 60-70 years and more than 70 years, and corresponding rates in the CHF population were 100.4 (81.5-119.2), 220.4 (194.5-246.2) and 226.7 (206.2-247.2), respectively. The adjusted Cox regression analysis demonstrated an increased risk of cancer in the CHF population with a hazard ratio of 1.44 (95 % CI 1.35-1.54, $p<0.001$).

Conclusion: Patients with CHF are of increased risk of cancer compared to the background population. Increased awareness of cancer is thus warranted among these patients.